

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the Application are reproduced below.

1. **(Previously Presented)** A client system for determining entitlement of ownership of stocks in a company, the client system comprising:
 - an identifier that identifies a customer relative to an ownership position in a company;
 - a transactional component that facilitates an economic transaction, wherein the economic transaction comprises a purchasing or ordering of goods or services from the company, one or more economic transactions representing economic activity;
 - a transactional relay component, communicatively coupled to the transactional component, that facilitates a response to a server system regarding the economic transaction, the response including the identifier for the server system to locate additional information on the customer and to associate the economic activity with the customer for determining entitlement of ownership of stocks in the company.
2. **(Original)** The client of Claim 1 wherein the client communicates to the server through an interconnected network.
3. **(Original)** The client of Claim 1 wherein the transactional relay component is a mass storage device.
4. **(Original)** The client of Claim 1 wherein the economic transaction is a transaction taking place through an interconnected network.
5. **(Original)** The client of Claim 1 wherein the transactional component is a web browser.
6. **(Original)** The client of Claim 1 wherein the transactional component is circuitry facilitating a transaction.

7. **(Original)** The client of Claim 1 wherein the transactional relay component is a wireless network interface.

8. **(Original)** The client of Claim 1 wherein the identifier is received from another source.

9. **(Original)** The client of Claim 8, the other source comprising a personal digital assistant.

10. **(Original)** The client of Claim 8, the other source comprising a wireless networking device.

11. **(Original)** The client of Claim 8, the other source comprising a wireless device.

12. **(Original)** The client of Claim 8, the other source comprising digital smart card.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A server system for determining entitlement of ownership in a company, the server system comprising:

a transactional reception component that receives information on an economic transaction, wherein the economic transaction comprises a purchasing or ordering of goods or services from the company, one or more economic transactions representing economic activity;

a transactional processing component, communicatively coupled to the transactional reception component, that determines in what form an individual ~~may participate~~ **participates** in ownership of the company **according to the economic activity**;

a data storage medium, communicatively coupled to the transactional processing component, that stores information on ownership rights in the company relating to the individual;

the transactional processing component operable to:

associate the economic activity with the individual; and

determine, according to a level of the economic activity, that the individual is entitled to convert a first form of ownership in the company to a second form of ownership, wherein a risk associated with the first form of ownership is limited to a predetermined amount, the predetermined amount being less than an initial investment of the individual in the first form of ownership.

14. **(Original)** The system of Claim 13, wherein the transactional component is an interface to an interconnected network.

15. **(Original)** The system of Claim 14 wherein the transactional is a mass storage device reader.

16. **(Original)** The system of Claim 13 wherein the transactional reception component is a keyboard.

17. **(Canceled)**

18. **(Canceled)**

19. **(Original)** The system of Claim 13 wherein the data storage medium is a semiconductor memory.

20. **(Original)** The system of Claim 13 wherein the first form of ownership is a preferred stock.

21. **(Original)** The system of Claim 13 wherein the second form of ownership is a common stock.

22. **(Original)** The system of Claim 13 wherein the predetermined amount is zero.

23. **(Original)** The system of Claim 13 wherein the predetermined amount is less than 20 percent of the initial investment.

24. **(Currently Amended)** A server system for determining entitlement of ownership in a company, the server system comprising:

a transactional reception component that receives information on an economic transaction, wherein the economic transaction comprises an acquisition of goods or services from the company, one or more economic transactions representing economic activity;

a transactional processing component, communicatively coupled to the transactional reception component, that determines whether the individual ~~may participate~~ participates in ownership of the company according to the economic activity;

a data storage medium, communicatively coupled to the transactional processing component, that stores information on ownership rights in the company relating to the individual; and

the transactional processing component operable to:

associate the economic activity with the individual; and

determine, according to a level of the economic activity, that the individual is entitled to convert a first form of ownership in the company to a second form of ownership based upon predetermined criteria.

25. **(Original)** The system of Claim 24, wherein the transactional reception component is an interface to an interconnected network.

26. **(Original)** The system of Claim 24 wherein the transactional reception component is a mass storage device reader.

27. **(Original)** The system of Claim 24 wherein the transactional reception component is a keyboard.

28. **(Canceled)**

29. **(Canceled)**

30. **(Original)** The system of Claim 24 wherein the data storage medium is a semiconductor memory.

31. **(Original)** The system of Claim 24 wherein the first form of ownership is a preferred stock.

32. **(Original)** The system of Claim 24 wherein the second form of ownership is a common stock.

33. **(Previously Presented)** A method for determining an ownership interest in an entity for an individual, the entity having a first and a second types of ownership interest, the individual holding the first type of ownership representing an amount of investment, the method comprising:

monitoring economic activity associated with the individual, wherein the economic activity represents one or more economic transactions, the economic transaction comprising an acquisition of goods or services from the entity;

offering an individual an opportunity to convert the individual's first type of ownership in the entity to the second type of ownership interest based upon predefined criteria, wherein the predefined criteria is a level of economic activity; and

limiting a risk associated with the first type of ownership to an amount less than the investment.

34. **(Original)** The method of Claim 33, the step of monitoring taking place through an interconnected network.

35. **(Original)** The method of Claim 33, the Claim of monitoring occurring over a web browser.

36. **(Original)** The method of Claim 33 wherein the economic activity is effectuated by a wireless device.

37. **(Original)** The method of Claim 33 wherein the economic activity is effectuated by a network appliance.

38. **(Original)** The method of Claim 33 wherein the first ownership interest is preferred stock.

39. **(Original)** The method of Claim 33 wherein the second ownership interest is common stock.

40. **(Canceled)**

41. **(Original)** The method of Claim 33 wherein the first ownership interest has an expiration time.

42. **(Original)** The method of Claim 33, the step of limiting the risk comprising investing a portion a proceeds from the investment into a fixed income investment.

43. **(Original)** The method of Claim 33, the step of limiting the risk comprising investing a portion a proceeds from the investment into a bond.

44. **(Original)** The method of Claim 33, the step of limiting the risk comprising securing a financial guarantee from a third party.

45. **(Original)** The method of Claim 33, the step of limiting the risk comprising investing a portion of the amount of investment with a guarantor.

46. **(Original)** The method of Claim 33, wherein the amount less than the investment is zero.

47. **(Original)** The method of Claim 33, wherein the amount less than the investment is less than 20% of the investment amount.

48. **(Previously Presented)** The client of Claim 1, wherein the server system associates the economic activity with the ownership position of the customer.

49. **(Previously Presented)** The client of Claim 1, wherein the server system makes available the ownership position according to the economic activity of the customer, wherein the ownership position is dependent upon the economic activity.

50. **(Withdrawn)** A method for providing an ownership interest in an entity, the entity having a first type of ownership interest and a second type of ownership interest, the method comprising:

- determining an ownership position of a user in an entity;
- monitoring economic activity of the user;
- associating the economic activity with the ownership position; and
- offering the user an incentive according to a predefined criteria, wherein the predefined criteria relates to the economic activity of the user.

51. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 50, further comprising:

- notifying the user of an opportunity to acquire an ownership position if the economic activity satisfies the predefined criteria; and
- receiving a request from a user to acquire a first type of ownership interest in the entity to establish the ownership position.

52. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 50, further comprising receiving a request from a user to acquire a first type of ownership interest in the entity to establish the ownership position.

53. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 50, wherein offering the user an incentive comprises offering the user an opportunity to convert a first type of ownership interest into a second type of ownership interest.

54. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 50, wherein offering the user an incentive comprises limiting a risk associated with the first type of ownership interest to an amount less than an investment.

55. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 54, wherein limiting the risk comprises investing a portion of proceeds from the investment into at least one of a selected fixed income investment and a bond.

56. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 54, wherein limiting the risk comprises investing a portion of proceeds from the investment with a guarantor.

57. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 54, wherein limiting the risk comprises securing a financial guarantee from a third party.

58. **(Withdrawn)** A client for determining entitlement of an ownership interest in an entity, the entity having a first type of ownership interest and a second type of ownership interest, the client comprising:

an identifier operable to identify a user relative to an ownership position in an entity;

a first component operable to facilitate economic activity, wherein the economic activity comprises an acquisition of goods or services from the entity, and monitor the economic activity; and

a second component coupled to the first component, the second component operable to facilitate a response to a server regarding the economic activity for determining entitlement of an ownership interest in the entity, and receive an offer of an incentive according to a predefined criteria, wherein the predefined criteria relates to the economic activity.

59. **(Withdrawn)** The client of Claim 58, the second component operable to:
receive a notification of an opportunity to acquire an ownership position if the economic activity satisfies the predefined criteria; and
send a request to acquire a first type of ownership interest in the entity to establish the ownership position.

60. **(Withdrawn)** The client of Claim 58, the second component operable to send a request to acquire a first type of ownership interest in the entity to establish the ownership position.

61. **(Withdrawn)** A server for providing an ownership interest in an entity, the entity having a first type of ownership interest and a second type of ownership interest, the server comprising:

a first component operable to receive information regarding economic activity of a user, determine an ownership position of a user in an entity, and monitor economic activity of the user; and

a second component operable to associate the economic activity with the ownership position, and offer the user an incentive according to a predefined criteria, wherein the predefined criteria relates to the economic activity of the user.

62. **(Withdrawn)** The server of Claim 61, the first component operable to:
notify the user of an opportunity to acquire an ownership position if the economic activity satisfies the predefined criteria; and
receive a request from a user to acquire a first type of ownership interest in the entity to establish the ownership position.

63. **(Withdrawn)** The server of Claim 61, the first component operable to receive a request from a user to acquire a first type of ownership interest in the entity to establish the ownership position.

64. **(Withdrawn)** The server of Claim 61, the second component operable to offer the user an opportunity to convert a first type of ownership interest into a second type of ownership interest.

65. **(Withdrawn)** The server of Claim 61, the second component operable to limit a risk associated with the first type of ownership interest to an amount less than an investment.

66. **(Withdrawn)** The server of Claim 65, the second component operable to invest a portion of proceeds from the investment into at least one of a selected fixed income investment and a bond.

67. **(Withdrawn)** The server of Claim 65, the second component operable to invest a portion of proceeds from the investment with a guarantor.

68. **(Withdrawn)** The server of Claim 65, the second component operable to secure a financial guarantee from a third party.